



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Carlos PEDRIDO, et al.

Attorney Docket Q62474

Appln. No.: 09/745,414

Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned

Confirmation No.: 9890

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Filed: December 26, 2000

For: A PREFORM INLET ARRANGEMENT FOR AN OPTICAL FIBER DRAWING FURNACE, A FURNACE PROVIDED WITH THAT KIND OF INLET ARRANGEMENT, AND A PREFORM EQUIPPED TO CO-OPERATE WITH THAT INLET ARRANGEMENT

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification is changed as follows:

Page 1, after the title, insert the heading

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Page 2, after line 1 (according to the line numbering), insert the heading

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Page 3, after line 22, insert the heading

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Page 4, after line 1, insert the heading

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

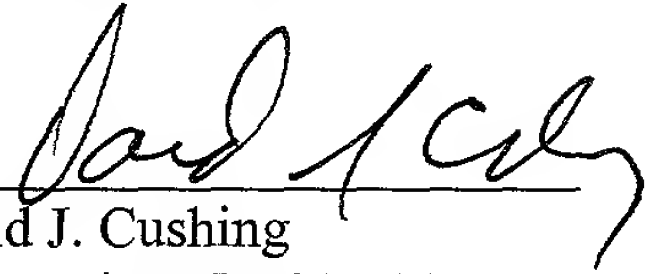
4. (Amended) An inlet arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the injector has inert gas injector vents (15) which point towards its airlock in addition to injector vents (14) which point towards the inside of the furnace.
5. (Amended) An inlet arrangement according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the stages of seals is made up of stacked graphite seals (17A and/or 17B).
7. (Amended) A furnace for drawing fiber (2') including an enclosure (4') at the top of which is an opening to allow insertion of a preform, which moves vertically downwards in translation during fiber drawing, and a preform inlet arrangement (13') above the enclosure and including an injector (6') situated at the level of the preform inlet opening to inject inert gas onto the perimeter of the preform to fill the enclosure of the furnace, and at least one seal (17B) fixed by means of a seal support above the injector and through which the preform passes, whose cylindrical main body (9') it surrounds to prevent circulation of gas between the surrounding environment and the inside of the furnace at its level, characterized in that said furnace includes an inlet arrangement according to claim 1.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
Attorney Docket Q62474

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

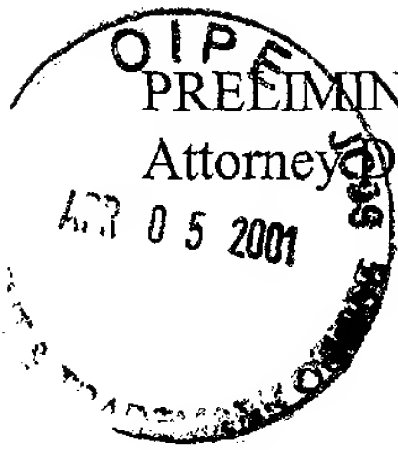


David J. Cushing
Registration No. 28,703

SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN,
MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

Date: April 5, 2001

U.S. DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
Attorney Docket Q62474

APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification is changed as follows:

Page 1, after the title, insert the heading

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Page 2, after line 1 (according to the line numbering), insert the heading

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Page 3, after line 22, insert the heading

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Page 4, after line 1, insert the heading

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

4. (Amended) An inlet arrangement according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the injector has inert gas injector vents (15) which point towards its airlock in addition to injector vents (14) which point towards the inside of the furnace.
5. (Amended) An inlet arrangement according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein at least one of the stages of seals is made up of stacked graphite seals (17A and/or 17B).
7. (Amended) A furnace for drawing fiber (2') including an enclosure (4') at the top of which is an opening to allow insertion of a preform, which moves vertically downwards in

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Attorney Docket Q62474

translation during fiber drawing, and a preform inlet arrangement (13') above the enclosure and including an injector (6') situated at the level of the preform inlet opening to inject inert gas onto the perimeter of the preform to fill the enclosure of the furnace, and at least one seal (17B) fixed by means of a seal support above the injector and through which the preform passes, whose cylindrical main body (9') it surrounds to prevent circulation of gas between the surrounding environment and the inside of the furnace at its level, characterized in that said furnace includes an inlet arrangement according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~claim 1.

FOR THE OFFICE